

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Situation Report 4 **Philippines** 14 March 2020

Data reported by the Department of Health on 14 March 2020

Highlights

- Twelve new cases tested positive for COVID-19 since yesterday.
- Out of the total of 64 confirmed cases, 23% are imported from outside of the Philippines (China, Japan, South Korea/USA, Australia, UAE, Indonesia, Taiwan, Switzerland, and 2 from the Diamond Princess Cruise Ship), 31% are categorised as localized transmission, and the remaining cases are unknown or still under investigation. For details on all cases please see table below.
- One additional death was reported on 14 March among a 54-year old Filipino male hospitalised at the Northern Mindanao Medical Centre in Cagayan de Oro, caused by acute respiratory distress syndrome due to severe pneumonia with kidney injury.
- **The Department of Health (DOH) is appealing to the public for cooperation with case investigation and contact tracing activities through its designated hotline at (02) 8-651-7800 extension 1149-1150 for any new leads.**
- **COVID-19 Alert System to Code Red sublevel 2** imposes temporary guidelines on **stringent social distancing measures** in the National Capital Region (NCR) from 15 March to 14 April 2020, including suspension of classes, mass gatherings and non-essential work, flexible work arrangements, and restriction on land, domestic air and sea travel to and from NCR. General community quarantine is controlled to limit access to basic necessities and work only. Movement of cargo not affected. All measures regularly reassessed. For details see below page 4.
- Philippines government added Iran and Italy to its travel ban already including Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau, as well as Northern Gyeongsang province of South Korea
- DOH is prioritizing readiness of hospitals for treatment of cases and expanding laboratory testing capacity as soon as long-awaited supplies reach the country, both at national level (Research Institute for Tropical Medicine), 5 sub national laboratories, and an additional 7 laboratories
- WHO is working closely together with partners to support with rapid procurement and mobilisation of urgent supplies, especially laboratory supplies, ventilators, mobile hospitals and PPE. A costed response plan to feed into the government's efforts is being drafted, to be shared with partners soon.

PHILIPPINES SITUATION IN NUMBERS

64 confirmed (12 new)

15* imported cases

20 local transmission

19 unknown

10 under investigation

6 deaths (1 new)

153 admitted Persons Under Investigation

914 samples tested

<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

* Correction from earlier reported 18 imported cases after further case investigation

Summary of Cases

Case #	(Sex / Age)	Nationality	Date of Onset of Symptoms	Date of Laboratory Confirmation	Transmission Classification*
PH1	F 38	Chinese	21 January	30 January	Imported
PH2	M 44	Chinese	18 January	30 January	Imported
PH3	F 60	Chinese	21 January	30 January	Imported
PH4	M 48	Filipino	3 March	5 March	Imported
PH5	M 62	Filipino	25 February	5 March	Local transmission
PH6	F 59	Filipino	27 February	6 March	Local transmission
PH7	M 38	Taiwanese	3 March	8 March	Local transmission
PH8	M 32	Filipino	5 March	8 March	Imported
PH9	M 86	American	1 March	8 March	Imported
PH10	M 57	Filipino	20 February	8 March	Unknown
PH11	M 72	Filipino	3 March	9 March	Unknown
PH12	M 56	Filipino	29 February	9 March	Unknown
PH13	M 34	Filipino	28 February	9 March	Imported
PH14	M 46	Filipino	25 February	9 March	Unknown
PH15	M 24	Filipino	1 March	9 March	Imported
PH16	M 70	Filipino	1 March	9 March	Local transmission
PH17	F 69	Filipino	1 March	9 March	Local transmission
PH18	M 41	Filipino	26 February	9 March	Imported
PH19	F 46	Filipino	9 March	9 March	Local transmission
PH20	M 48	Filipino	29 February	9 March	Imported
PH21	F 58	Filipino	4 March	9 March	Unknown
PH22	F 51	Filipino	4 March	9 March	Unknown
PH23	F 30	Filipino	3 March	9 March	Unknown
PH24	M 52	Filipino	6 March	9 March	Imported
PH25	M 31	Filipino	Asymptomatic	10 March	Imported
PH26	M 34	Filipino	Asymptomatic	10 March	Imported
PH27	F 42	Filipino	19 February	10 March	Local transmission
PH28	M 69	Filipino	29 February	10 March	Local transmission
PH29	F 82	Filipino	Asymptomatic	10 March	Local transmission
PH30	F 69	Filipino	5 March	10 March	Local transmission
PH31	F 28	Filipino	1 March	10 March	Local transmission
PH32	M 64	Filipino	27 February	10 March	Unknown
PH33	M 60	Filipino	3 March	10 March	Unknown
PH34	M 72	Filipino	6 March	11 March	Local transmission
PH35	F 67	Filipino	29 February	11 March	Local transmission
PH36	M 53	Filipino	25 February	11 March	Unknown
PH37	F 88	Filipino	28 February	11 March	Unknown
PH38	M 29	Filipino	3 March	11 March	Local transmission
PH39	M 64	Filipino	3 March	11 March	Local transmission
PH40	M 54	Filipino	24 February	11 March	Unknown
PH41	F 75	Filipino	1 March	11 March	Imported
PH42	M 51	Filipino	27 February	11 March	Imported
PH43	M 47	Filipino	9 March	11 March	Local transmission
PH44	F 70	Filipino	7 March	11 March	Unknown
PH45	M 27	Filipino	8 March	11 March	Local transmission
PH46	F 66	Filipino	29 February	11 March	Unknown
PH47	M 53	Filipino	15 February	11 March	Under investigation
PH48	M 57	Filipino	2 March	11 March	Local transmission
PH49	M 72	Filipino	1 March	11 March	Local transmission
PH50	F 69	Filipino	8 March	11 March	Unknown
PH51	M 26	Filipino	28 February	11 March	Unknown
PH52	F 79	Filipino	1 March	11 March	Local transmission
PH53	M 30	Filipino	9 March	12 March	Under investigation
PH54	M 40	Filipino	1 March	12 March	Unknown
PH55	F 59	Under investigation	Under investigation	13 March	Under investigation
PH56	M 41	Under investigation	Under investigation	13 March	Under investigation
PH57	M 65	Under investigation	Under investigation	13 March	Under investigation
PH58	F 45	Filipino	6 March	13 March	Unknown
PH59	M 27	Under investigation	Under investigation	13 March	Under investigation
PH60	M 49	Under investigation	Under investigation	13 March	Under investigation
PH61	F 70	Under investigation	Under investigation	13 March	Under investigation
PH62	F 35	Under investigation	Under investigation	13 March	Under investigation
PH63	M 33	Filipino	6 March	13 March	Unknown
PH64	M 32	Under investigation	28 February	13 March	Under investigation

* KEY DEFINITIONS

- **Imported cases:** where all cases have been acquired outside the location of reporting.
- **Local transmission:** where the source of infection is within the reporting location.
- **Community transmission** is evidenced by the inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission for a large number of cases, or by increasing positive tests through routine screening of sentinel samples

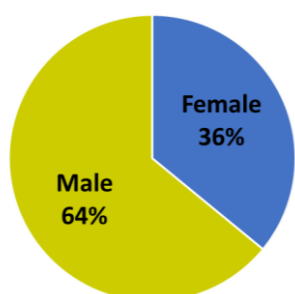
Current Situation

Between 12 and 14 March, 12 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the Philippines, totalling 64 confirmed cases, including 6 deaths.

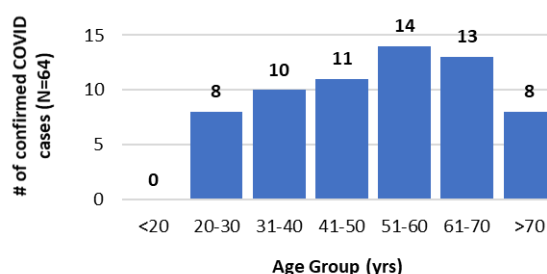
One additional death was reported on 14 March among a 54-year old Filipino male hospitalised at the Northern Mindanao Medical Centre in Cagayan de Oro. Cause of death was acute respiratory distress syndrome due to severe pneumonia with kidney injury.

Among the 64 confirmed cases, 41 are male (64%) and 23 female (36%). The most affected age group is 51-60 years (22%) followed by 61-70 years (20%).

Gender distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines in %
18 January-13 March 2020 (N=64)

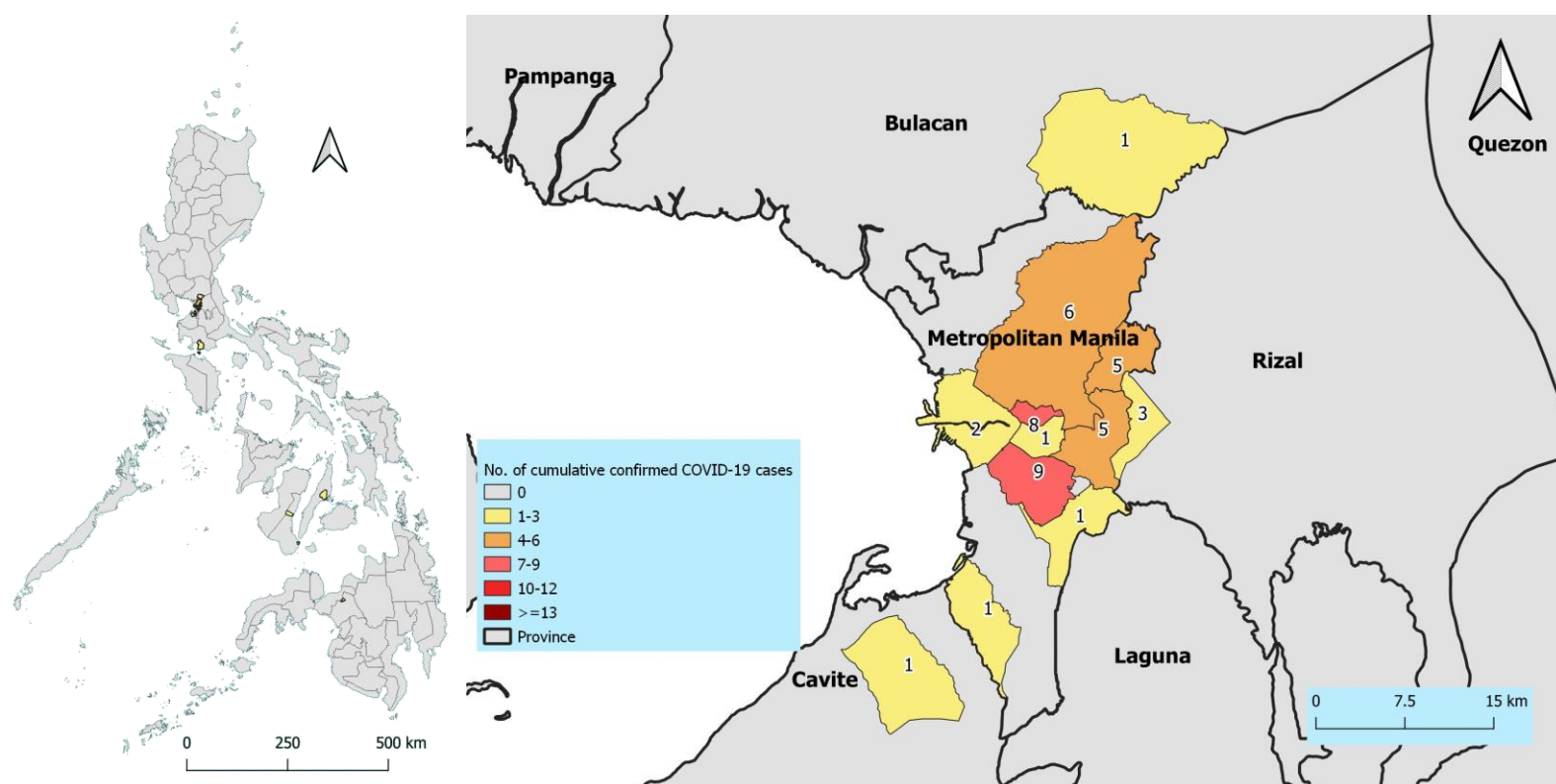


Age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines in #
18 January-13 March 2020 (N=64)



Thanks to intensified case investigation, contact tracing, and surveillance, analysis has found presence of localized transmission and clustering of cases in the country.

Number of cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases in the Philippines (A) and in Metro Manila (B)
18 January-12 March 2020 (N=52)



Stringent social distancing measures imposed in NCR, effective 15 March until 14 April 2020 include:

1. Suspension of classes and school activities
2. Prohibition of mass gatherings except for essential work-related meetings and religious activities if strict social distancing (1 meter radius between attendees) is adhered to
3. *General community quarantine* enforced by Local Government Units (LGUs) through controlled border points aimed at restricting access and entry of people only limited to basic necessities and work, except for health workers, authorized government officials, those travelling for medical or humanitarian reasons, persons transiting to airports for travel abroad, persons providing basic services and public utilities, and essential skeletal workforce showing proof of employment
4. Implementation of alternative working arrangements, except for police, army, coast guard, health and emergency frontline services
5. Restriction on land, domestic air and sea travel to and from NCR: all workers will be provisionally allowed to travel showing proof of employment. Public transport in NCR will continue to operate.
6. Departing passengers are allowed transit through NCR only with proof of confirmed booking
7. Movement of cargo not affected
8. Exemptions granted by DOH based on humanitarian considerations.

Country readiness and response operations

Country-level coordination

DOH's Incident Management Team is working around the clock at the established Emergency Operating Centre to effectively coordinate all urgent actions required for a swift response. Recommendations made by the Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) and the Inter Agency Technical Working Group (IATWG) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases were adopted by the president to impose stringent social distancing and community quarantine measures.

All relevant government departments are in the process of issuing urgent guidelines based on the latest resolution.

As the government is already in the middle of full-blown outbreak response, a planned table top exercise to test the latest updated national contingency plan will no longer take place. Instead, WHO is drafting a costed response plan on behalf of UN, NGOs, donors, and other partners to complement the government's efforts, as discussed at last Tuesday's planning workshop.

Many partners are already supporting with risk communication, sharing of key messages, community engagement, hygiene promotion, provision of hand-washing and sanitary facilities in clinics and hospitals, training and urgent procurement of PPE, laboratory supplies, ventilators, and tents for isolation and treatment of patients.

Risk communication and community engagement

All official DOH communication materials are available at: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCov/in-fographics> and <https://www.doh.gov.ph/COVID-19/Gabay-sa-Publiko>

The Humanitarian Communication Group is coordinating all risk communication efforts among non-government partners to ensure unified messaging and sharing of correct information and to debunk 'fake news' by promoting only reliable and verified information sources.

Surveillance

DOH has intensified its surveillance systems to actively look for clusters of cases of COVID-19. Epidemiological Surveillance Units (ESU) at municipal, city, provincial and regional level conduct case investigation and contact tracing, while continuously conduct Event-based (or rumour-based) investigations, searching for clusters of diseases of unknown origin and/or influenza-like and pneumonia-like illnesses as well as severe acute respiratory infections.

DOH' Epidemiology Bureau (EB) and its ESUs are working in close collaboration with LGUs to trace possible contacts of confirmed cases, using passenger manifests of public transport means including flights, ferries and buses, often led by the DOH' Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ).

WHO is recruiting additional staff for EB. WHO is also facilitating the use of Go.Data, an outbreak investigation tool for field data collection during public health emergencies.

National laboratory system

Global shortage of key laboratory supplies is resulting in serious delays with delivery of urgently required reagents, primers, probes, extraction kits and transport media. As soon as supplies arrive, the five identified sub national laboratories (Baguio General Hospital and Medical Centre, San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, Lung Centre of the Philippines in Quezon City, Southern Philippines Medical Centre in Davao and Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Centre in Cebu) and the National Institute of Health Central Laboratory of the University of the Philippines (UP-NIH) can start testing for COVID-19, significantly expanding the current capacity of 300 tests per day.

Five private hospitals in NCR are also preparing their laboratories to support with COVID-19 testing.













Infection prevention and control

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) assessment finalized in 4 hospitals so far: San Lazaro, the Lung Centre, RITM, the Southern Philippine Medical Centre in Davao, and Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital in San Fernando to ensure readiness of designated infectious disease hospitals to receive and treat COVID-19 patients.

On-the-job training on IPC and rational use of PPE will be conducted in priority hospitals for front-line health workers in the coming weeks. Training is supported by UNICEF and WHO.

UNFPA donated 100,000 face masks to DOH for health workers, following an earlier donation of 1,130 handheld thermometers.

Case management and continuity of essential services

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND REFERRALS OF SUSPECTED AND CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES UNDER CODE RED		CLARIFICATION ON MANAGEMENT AND REFERRAL OF CLOSE CONTACTS OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES	
	<p>All Municipal and City Health Offices are directed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • triage and manage all patients suspected to have COVID-19 according to previously issued guidelines • coordinate with their respective Barangay Emergency Health Response Teams for monitoring those requiring home quarantine 	<p>WHO ARE CLOSE CONTACTS OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES?</p>	
	<p>All Level 2 and 3 hospitals are directed to attend to all patients suspected to have the COVID-19 and those confirmed COVID-19 with mild symptoms.</p>	 <p>People providing direct care without proper personal protective equipment (PPE) 2 for COVID-19 patients</p>	 <p>People staying in the same close environment of a COVID-19 patient (including workplace, classroom, household, fathering) within the past 14-day period</p>
	<p>All Level 2 and 3 hospitals are encouraged to designate a triage area in their Emergency rooms for screening suspected COVID-19</p>	 <p>People traveling together in close proximity (1 meter or less) with a COVID-19 patient in any kind of conveyance within a 14-day period after the onset of symptoms in the case under consideration</p>	
	<p>Only confirmed COVID-19 patients that are severe and critical shall be referred to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, San Lazaro Hospital, and Lung Center of the Philippines.</p>	<p>WHAT SHOULD CLOSE CONTACTS DO?</p>	
	<p>All Level 2 and 3 hospitals are reminded to not refuse patients suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19. To reiterate the PHIC Advisory No. 2020-012, refusal to provide care to said patients shall be considered a violation of the signed Performance Commitment and shall be dealt with by the Corporation accordingly.</p>	 <p>Fully cooperate in contact training activities. The DOH in coordination with local health authorities will directly communicate with identified close contacts. In cases where there is difficulty ascertaining contacts, the DOH will collaborate with local institutions or issue specific advisories</p>	 <p>Only those deemed to be close contacts or Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) by the health centre or rural health units shall be referred to Level 2 and Level 3 hospitals for testing</p>
		 <p>All others who have visited places frequented by confirmed cases of COVID-19 are not required to seek medical consultation and subject themselves to COVID-19 lab testing. They are advised to self-monitor and if with symptoms, consult health centre or rural health units for appropriate management and monitoring.</p>	
<p>For more info, the public is advised to visit the dedicated website of the Department for COVID-19 at www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV or call (632) 8651-7800 local 1149 or 1150</p>		<p>For more info, the public is advised to visit the dedicated website of the Department for COVID-19 at www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV or call (632) 8651-7800 local 1149 or 1150</p>	

Logistics, procurement, and supply management

Who	What	#	When
PRC	Medical tents for isolation and treatment units	30	In country
WHO	PPE	12,000	Donated to DOH
	Laboratory supplies (details to follow)		partially donated to RITM and still awaiting delivery
UNFPA	Face masks	100,000	
	Handheld thermometers	1,130	
UNICEF	Tents for triage and isolation purposes	44	20 received on 11 March 24 arrive on April 23
	Disinfection kits	44	In country

Resource mobilization

	Committed in USD*	Details
ADB	3,000,000	Support to DOH for COVID-19 control, including procurement of essential items such as laboratory supplies and equipment, ventilators, PPE, mobile hospitals
UNICEF	1,100,000	Risk Communications and Community Engagement; critical supplies and logistics, including PPE and disinfection supplies; addressing primary impacts of the pandemic on health, nutrition and WASH; and secondary impacts on children and families
USAID	700,000	Laboratory supplies, risk communication, IPC, surveillance, planning, training
WHO	250,000	Laboratory supplies, PPEs, mobilization of experts, training of trainers and planning workshops

* Up to 14 March 2020



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